

PEACE NEWS

No. 211

JUNE 28, 1940

2d.

NO TIME TO LOSE

SOME supporters of *Peace News* are "Going to It" with a will in an endeavour to fill the gap in our distribution system caused by the recent ban on the paper by the National Association of Wholesale Newsagents. Many readers are backing them up with a good flow of donations into our Fighting Fund.

Groups of the Peace Pledge Union in many districts have taken over the distribution to retail news agents, individual members, libraries, &c. In the following regions a regional scheme is already in operation:

Birmingham, Bournemouth, Central London, Coventry, East Hants and West Sussex, Glasgow, Gloucester, Manchester, Newcastle, Northampton, North Midlands, Nottingham, West Derby, and West Herts.

If groups in the remaining regions quickly follow this example, the wholesale newsagents' action will not prove to be the crippling blow to our influence that was at first feared.

But there is no time to lose. About twenty thousand readers (roughly two-thirds of our circulation) were affected by the wholesalers' move. The week after it took place our printing order declined to some 10,000 copies.

We expect to print about 13,500 copies of this issue; so we have only regained about 17 per cent of the (continued on page 4)

WHAT CAN WE SAVE FROM THE WRECKAGE?

by Vera Brittain



VERA BRITTAİN,

well-known novelist, served as a V.A.D. nurse during the last war. She is a member of the National Council of the Peace Pledge Union and of its Executive Committee.

FROM the pacifist standpoint, the military consequences of any war, however catastrophic, must always appear subsidiary to the opportunities for social and moral resurrection which will still remain when hostilities have ceased.

Today, in this country, we are confronted with three possibilities, none of which can be positively deduced from campaigns inevitably different in type from the one that awaits this island. In the first place, an invasion which failed or only partly succeeded, accompanied by an attempt at economic blockade which remained incomplete, might produce, after a long campaign, a condition of stalemate ending in a draw. Secondly, similar circumstances, after a still longer war, might result in a British victory.

Thirdly, a short and successful invasion, carried out with the same swift and ruthless efficiency as previous Nazi campaigns, might bring about a British defeat. People who describe such a possibility as "unthinkable" mean that at this point they decline to allow their reasons to function; they are joining the ranks of those "wishful-thinkers" who underestimated Nazi resources, talked of "calling Hitler's bluff," and irresponsibly urged this

nation to give guarantees without knowing whether it was in a position to do so.

Whatever the ultimate outcome may be, when once the flames have died down and the smoke has cleared away, certain facts and conclusions must gradually emerge. When this year's events are no longer concealed from public knowledge by censorship and propaganda, it will become obvious that war has reached a point where human civilization can no longer sustain it.

YET WAR!
Drawn by
Don L. Treacher

"The country to-day needs evidence of Spartan finance. In the past 20 years over £7,600,000,000 has been spent in this country on social services alone.

"Many of those social services have been utterly useless and demoralising. Many of them are naturally done away with by the event of war itself. But before long we shall have to recognise that there can be no social services whatever for any except the aged and infirm."

—S. W. Alexander, City Editor, "Evening Standard," on Tuesday of last week.

Irreplaceable Losses

Though the conqueror may exact political and economic compensation from the conquered, no peace terms can restore the millions of lost lives and broken homes, nor put back in their own places the numerous landmarks of history and art which mechanized warfare has levelled to the ground. Even in the victorious country, preliminary exhaustion will certainly be followed (perhaps despite a continued suppression of facts) by a violent reaction of all the suffering peoples against war as an instrument of political policy.

This period of reaction is likely to perceive "national prestige" as the most menacing of all threats to human happiness. Some form of internationalism will certainly come, whether it be analogous to the "Pax Romana" of unifying despotism, or whether it resemble some new plan for democratic realignment such as the scheme outlined in Clarence Streit's *Union Now*.

Possibly we may see both types of unification, with England turning her face away from Europe and gradually becoming part of the New World, which must in any event emerge as the main stronghold of Western democracy. Many political thinkers now regret that she did not earlier adopt this policy, instead of chaining herself to the chariot wheels of France, and, still, more calamitously, of France's allies.

Humanity's Assets

When the wreckage has been removed we shall see, I believe, a new and more accurate estimate of those simple human values which have been equally obscured by the fanatical desire to seize power and the panic passion to retain it. Homes which have been lost will become doubly valuable, and children dearer because their safety has involved their absence.

A revaluation of the assets common to all humanity will give the citizen of every country a new foundation for living, and men will fight with redoubled intensity against the enemies of human life; against plague, pestilence, famine and war itself.

(continued on page 4)



A Pacifist Commentary

Edited by "Observer"

IN the last two issues of *Peace News* I have referred to the possibility of plague threatening the world as a result of the war. I make no apology for mentioning the subject again, for the danger is beginning to worry responsible people.

Thus Mr. Norman Davis, national chairman of the American Red Cross, said last Thursday that there existed a grave menace of epidemics among millions of refugees in Europe.

"What are we doing to prevent the spreading of pestilence here?" he asked. "Hitler may be winning the war he started, but he cannot hope to combat the pestilence that will be the war's outcome. Europe has not enough food to feed Europe."

"Crop prospects are poor, and starvation is bound to sweep the Old World this winter. Under-nourished millions will fall an easy prey to disease and lack of sanitation. Disease knows no boundary lines, even those extended by Hitler."

Are the governments at war really prepared to let millions of human beings face this dread prospect rather than attempt to negotiate a peace and then co-operate to overcome the consequences of their own folly?

Our own Government seems seriously blind to all the implications of the situation. Mr. Churchill seemed to count it a point in our favour when he told Parliament last week that "winter will impose a strain on the Nazi régime with almost all Europe starving under its heel, which, with all their ruthlessness, will run them very hard."

I hope he will take to heart Mr. Davis's warning that "disease knows no boundary lines"; and I hope he will realise that the people under German rule will be told that the lack of food is the fault of the British and their blockade.

The only liberation for the conquered peoples is apparently to be liberation by starvation. Have we so far lost our humanity that we can deliberately pursue such a policy? Those who undertook relief work on the Continent after the last war, or anyone who has seen pictures of the emaciated, stunted children in Central Europe, knows the answer to that question.

Another Versailles?

THE armistice which France has signed with Germany is a complete capitulation. But it is not the final peace treaty, and it seems unreasonable for the British Press to be so shocked at its terms.

Hitler is no faced with problems involved in carrying on the war—which we declared—against Britain alone. In such a situation it was hardly expected that, having defeated the French land forces, he would dare to leave the French power to strike back at him in their own land during the next phase of the war.

Liberation By Starvation

★

The Position in India

It is perhaps idle to speculate on the contents of the final peace treaty. But one phrase in the terms of the armistice may be significant. Article 3 declares, among other things that "Germany will reduce to a minimum the occupation of the western coast after the cessation of hostilities with Great Britain."

Is the phrase in question a sign of their intention not to impose unnecessarily harsh final terms for this very reason? Or is it a device to offset the severity of the present terms? At present one can but hope that, although the desire to avenge Versailles must be strong, the Germans realise that the imposition of a similar treaty at the end of this war would be no more successful in bringing peace and security to Europe. In any case, that depends upon a German victory, the prospects of which are discussed by Vera Brittain on page one this week.

As for the French attitude, it may be noted that General Huntziger, who announced the French acceptance of the armistice conditions, added: "I wish to express the hope that it will provide the possibility for our two great nations of living and working together in peace." Were these words also evidence of something better than a merely disgruntled mood?

MR. CHURCHILL last week upheld the now widespread custom of suggestions that the Empire is wholly united behind the war effort.

He referred to the Dominion premiers as "these eminent men, who all have governments behind them elected on wide franchises, who are all there because they represent the will of their people." So it is worth while noting any expression of opposition, if only to keep some sort of perspective.

One of the latest signs of disagreement has come from General Hertzog, Leader of the Opposition in South Africa, who made a written proposal to General Smuts, the Premier, last week, that South Africa should "immediately take all the necessary measures to withdraw from the war." He protested against the "reckless risk to national freedom and the senseless sacrifice of Afrikaner youth in a fruitless struggle," and added: "As the feeling is to-day, further measures of compulsion for the prosecution of the war may lead to far-reaching disturbances for which the Government will have to bear the responsibility."

General Smuts has rejected this "dishonourable" proposal. But let us remember that for every such dissentient view which is reported in Britain there may be a number in other parts of the Empire of which we hear nothing.

A cabled summary of the resolution passed at the momentous meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian Congress demands careful study. First and foremost the policy laid down by the Ramgarh Congress, was reaffirmed. The position of India, in the light of the new world situation, was fully discussed and an important decision taken.

"Gandhiji presented to the world the weapon of organized non-violence as a substitute for war.... The working Committee continues to hold steadfastly to the principle of non violence in the struggle for National independence.... but is unable to go to the full length with Gandhiji regarding external aggression or internal disorder."

Mr. Gandhi opposed this resolution, urging that "aggression could best be met by a non-violent army." The Working Committee, in passing the resolution, absolved him from responsibility for the new programme and said he "must be free to pursue his ideal in his own way." Writing in *Harjan* on June 22, this undaunted world figure reaffirms "his changeless faith" and states that "the only way to meet Hitlerism is by non-violence."

The decision of Congress does not mean a break with Mr. Gandhi. His advice will always be sought and given as hitherto.

Meanwhile the main issue in regard to India's freedom awaits swift, imaginative, and statesmanlike action on the part of the British Government.

* To be obtained from the India League, 165 The Strand, W.C.2

"Experience shows it is but an empty dream to expect a real settlement to emerge at the moment when the conflagration of war has died down.... the sword cannot breed peace, it can only impose terms of peace. The forces, the influences, that are to renew the face of the earth must spring from men's hearts."—Written by the present Pope and quoted by H. B. Pointing in "Towards a World Set Free," *The Friend*, April 12.

REFLECTIONS on the FUTURE

by Wilfred Wellock

I HOPE the fury and demands of war have not made it a crime to sit and think in a garden, as a garden is about the only place in the world where the human mind can now find real rest, a true antidote to war. To see things growing, flowers blossoming, fruit and vegetables taking shape, helps to keep one sane amidst the catastrophes of our time, especially the moral and spiritual catastrophes of a decaying and dying civilisation.

Stretched before me as I write is an old-time garden—a lawn surrounded by gorgeous masses of colour of beloved perennials. It is the season of pinks and roses. There are rock pinks in large patches, and clumps of white, pink and bi-colour varieties, and in addition a delightful white, tinged with the faintest of blushes. Behind these are clusters of roses, all scented, for, as I have said, this garden is old-fashioned. To the left is red honeysuckle. The scented air is like the breath of paradise.

Above me float huge balloons shining like silver in the blazing sunshine. But they are not the symbols of frolic and festivity which their shimmering animal-like appearance suggests. They are, in fact, the signs of decay, of death and destruction.

Behind me is another modern invention, the message of which as often as not these days conflicts with that of a garden, with its freshness, colour, and repose—the wireless. For the time being it has become, like most things, human beings included, an instrument of Government policy. It has just informed me that the French have decided to ask for an Armistice, and that Britain is to carry on the war alone, and to the bitter end.

What of the Future?

I sit back stupefied. I look at the garden, which seems to be more shocked even than I, for it reminds me of Wordsworth's despairing words:

"To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man."

It thus transpires that the balloons and wireless daily negate all my hopes and dreams. The future—but what future can there be? Disaster follows disaster at so great a pace that the mind fails to keep in step with the march of events. I am thinking not of military disasters merely, but of the spiritual disasters from which they spring. We are now moving rapidly towards the climax of our materialistic, class-dominated civilisation, with its ruthless power politics, while there is no sign that in high places there exists the vision and courage which might save us from this terrible fate. Hence the catastrophes we must expect are of a very different kind from those generally anticipated. Materialism and power politics were bound to end in calamity soon or late, and in the events of the last twenty years they have given us ample warning. That warning we have ignored.

At the very time when kingdoms are falling like ninepins, when iconoclasts are taking a terrible revenge for the crimes of a decaying civilisation, no challenge of hope is offered in the form of deeds meet for repentance, deeds which give promise of a new age of human and

international relations. Instead we are invited to look forward to more and more slaughter, and to believe that after it a new world will emerge.

Fundamental Issues

But new worlds are made, not born, and so far no government of the dying world has produced a plan for the construction of a reasonable, human world, a plan which seeks to remove the inhumanities of a class-based civilisation, viz., poverty, unemployment, the subjugation of human personality by a soulless industrialism, imperialism, monopoly and interminable war, and to lay the basis of a true democracy in a policy of sharing the earth's resources socially and internationally; of trusting human nature and giving the fullest scope to human personality; of co-operation, and of furthering a culture which lays chief emphasis on human values, on personality, friendship and fellowship.

On these fundamental issues not one word is spoken, nor have we the least assurance that the conditions of the only world that can survive will be fulfilled when the slaughter we are now being asked to participate in is over. The simple fact is that the longer the slaughter continues the greater is the certainty that these conditions will not be fulfilled, and indeed that the evils we are supposed to be fighting, and which we are accepting as a temporary war necessity, will become imperative in the time of "peace."

We are being told that successful issue of the war will be the defeat of Hitler via the starvation of Europe. But is it not more likely that famine will result in revolution and Communism? Also may it not be that Hitler will proceed more and more on Socialist and even Communist lines, even to the extent of winning the Left over a wide area to his side? Therefore the present situation suggests the imperative need of an offer by Britain of a Europe which shall transcend anything Hitler can produce.

Failing this heroic course we shall be subjected to the gradual curtailment of our remaining liberties, and to the reduction of our possessions to a few friends, a few books, perhaps a few flowers, and will become increasingly perilous.

Comfortably Off....

Some are born Comfortably Off, but for most of us the state of being Comfortably Off is hard of achievement. Greater aims absorb our thoughts and activities. Yet thrift remains a virtue, if a humble one.

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Pacifists Must Renounce the Privileges of Robbery

A WELL-KNOWN economist has divided the community into three groups: the poor, the comfortable, and the rich. I imagine the majority of pacifists are found in the middle category. Perhaps we tend to be what Sir Richard Acland calls "snug little men and women with comfortable little incomes or fortunate little investments." It has long been the concern of many pacifists to find a realistic way out of this snug position.

As part of a discipline natural to a pacifist philosophy, the Forethought Committee of the Peace Pledge Union has asked members of the P.P.U. to try to discover the extent to which they share in the social theft involved when they use more service than they render, and it suggests that they should adopt a simpler mode of life expressive of the renunciation of economic privilege.

Double Robbery.

THE social theft we commit by accepting economic privileges involves us in a double robbery.

In the formative years of our present economic system competition was the order of the day, and the prizes to be won were the raw materials of the world and the machinery which made them usable by man. The winners of this joyful business became, in fact, owners, and acquired a monopoly of these means of production.

Consequently all the unfortunates—all, that is, but a tiny minority—have ever since been compelled to sell their labour to the owners, so that they might be enabled to buy back even the smallest part of their rightful share of the community resources—resources to which they contributed, moreover, to the utmost of their ability.

This was the first great robbery, and the second is like unto it, namely this.

When the workers sell their labour to the owners for wages, they are not paid the full value of the work they do. The planter, when selling the product of their labours, does not return the full proceeds of his sale to the men who sowed and hoed, or packed and picked his crop. Apart from the possibility that GLUT may prevent him from realising the full value of the crop, he probably satisfies administrative overheads, middlemen, his own profit, and a horde of hungry shareholders who have given him financial backing and demand interest on their

says

PATRICK WILSON

Secretary of "A Group of Pacifist-Socialists," authors of 'Income and Community' which discusses more fully some of the ideas put forward in this article.

money. The men who do the actual work—in man-hours, throughout the day—receive each a minute portion of the proceeds.

Basic Injustices.

THESE are the basic injustices upon which society rests and by them the owners have acquired almost complete control—through the wages they pay—over the level at which their workers shall live.

A man's income level is vital. His ability to purchase food, shelter, and clothing very largely decides his health. His education, recreation, and cultural opportunities depend no less on income, and on these depend his mental development—ultimately his happiness.

We ourselves are inextricably entangled in the corruptions of this economic machine; our very existence depends upon it. The entire community is parasitic on a handful of trusts, cartels, and combines and on the figures who dominate them, and on the extent to which they can procure profit.

There is no escape. So long as the world's goods are thus tainted we are in duty bound to those whose lives are forfeit to the system to make a minimum compromise. What is the minimum compromise humanly possible for us?

We must look at the lot of the average worker in industry—the dispossessed victim of the system—and see the standard of life he has to endure. What do some of us contribute to the community that entitles us to put something by for the education of our children when he must send his to the nearest State school? For what special purposes are some of us singled out to possess a car or a good collection of books, when he has to take a tram to or go to the nearest free library? If we have many such possessions it is the spoil of the poor that is in our houses.

Property Held in Trust

WE must then act upon these conclusions. If we own property (in

more than the sense of personal possessions) we hold it in trust against the day when all property reverts to the community, and we must be ready to give an account of our stewardship. We can expect no more than a just wage for administering it.

Being human, we are not good judges of our own deserts, and though we should assess our own needs critically, it is good to get a check on our conclusions. This is best done by groups working together with a community of purpose and ideas. A common discipline can be arrived at by these groups which will be self-imposed. Some form of income-limitation will probably be the first step.

We should try to decide what is involved in a "simpler mode of life." We need not be tediously introspective over domestic details, but we should acknowledge their importance as threads which tie us to an outworn social morality. If, say, we still eat four meals in a day, then it is time we cut down to three. If we've felt "in need of a holiday" it is time to get back into training by a system of healthy living. We might spring clean our wardrobes. We should also be able to view our possessions dispassionately—stand clear of them—so that we can walk out of our home to-morrow if need be. The Son of Man was not particular where he laid his head.

"Get Into Training"

IT is not that these limitations are good in themselves (though frugality will usually be a sign of a healthy personality) but, apart from reducing the degree of our dependence on the status quo, they are also the means whereby we can prepare for the bleak period of history upon which we now appear to be entering.

It is vitally necessary—if we are to be the settlers of a New World Order—that we should equip ourselves to withstand the rigours of a disintegrating civilization.

We will do well to get into training now before war itself makes other, possibly more drastic, changes in our way of life. Never let it be said that it took total war to persuade pacifists to surrender their privileges.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF....?

(from a Correspondent)

A TRIBUNAL for conscientious objectors I believe, recently thought an applicant was talking foolishly when he told them, in answer to a question, that if he saw a German parachutist he would offer him a cup of tea.

Perhaps it was because fraternization with the enemy is one of the things authorities most dislike. At any rate the idea was not impracticable.

Mrs. Dan Hills, living in a Cambridge-shire village, told the *News Chronicle* last week how two Nazi airmen who had been shot down appeared in the road-way by her gate and called out "Food please."

"We did not go out, and one of the Germans said: 'We are German fliers. We want food.' They looked to be about 24 or 26 years of age, and one of them was obviously an officer."

"I said to my daughter, 'They can shoot us,' and so I thought we had better give them some food."

"I quite forgot that we had been told not to give Germans food in such circumstances and I hoped I did not do wrong, but I gave them some cake and a cup of tea. They were simply ravenous and I felt quite sorry for them."

"They were very nice and polite to us and thanked me very much indeed, and said the tea and cake were most acceptable. The officer spoke fairly good English."

"A little while later we heard footsteps and saw the L.D.V.s coming up with my husband."

"The Germans went up to our men quite calmly and unconcernedly and put their hands up and surrendered without any trouble at all."

Before they were taken away (added the *News Chronicle*) the two Germans were taken by a man and his two stalwart sons to their farm for a couple of hours.

They chatted with their captors during this time and were given cigarettes.

Giants and Pigmies

By JOHN BARCLAY

(P.P.U. Groups Organizer)

IN the "bad old days" of Queen Victoria's reign, a favourite trick employed by nursemaids to frighten children was to warn them that if they looked long enough at a certain object they would become like it. A certain master at my school used to place a small skull in front of us and jokingly say the same thing. But it is perfectly true today in politics.

Already many of the characteristics of Nazi Germany are appearing in our national life—concentration camps and prisons for people who do not bow to the national gods—pacifists who refuse to be conscripted or those who simply are known to be pacifists are being locked up without a charge being made—Gestapo methods are finding increasing favour with or without the know-

ledge of the authorities and are being practised in certain districts—censoring of letters and the searching of houses and their inhabitants—all this is on the increase. It appears that in order to fight Hitler we must become like Hitler. If this is so, it is what the pacifist has always said. But this is no time for saying "I told you so."

Our problem is to prevent the building of this self-made prison in which so many souls will eventually die, and from which there is no certainty of escape. Our struggle is the struggle of all those who love liberty and freedom and our appeal to them must be through the imagination. Personal fear causes loss of perspective and at the moment so many of the giants of intellectual freedom have become pigmies under the shadow of Hitler's arm, through this loss of perspective.

Until they regain their vision, we must carry the weight of responsibility. A new world order can only be built by giants, and the courage that is demanded of us is perhaps beyond our power to give. We can but do our best and stand firm hoping that we shall not be mistaken for pigmies.

On, then, to a new day with the faith and courage of giants refreshed.

London Area Notice Board

Area Meeting of Group Reps.

Alex Miller on Income and Community

Dick Sheppard Club, July 2nd, 7.45 p.m.

Committee suggests Groups pay expenses of Reps. to Area Meetings where it is known reps. cannot attend through financial stress

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Station: Ambergate (L.M.S.). Tel.: Ambergate 44.

LONDON: FOWLER, "Newlyn House," 9 Argyle Street, W.C.1. B. and B., 5s.; double, 8s. 6d. Opposite St. Pancras Station. 1er. 3572.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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LONDON P.P.U. Members' meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 7.45 p.m., Dick Sheppard Club, Binney Street, Oxford Street, W.1. Address on "Current Events," by J. Allen Skinner.

PACIFIST PRINTER. Handbills, leaflets, programmes and general printing.—W. J. Bridgen, 239 Sellin Court Road, London, S.W.17.

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QUAKERISM. Information and literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Peace Workers To Discuss Future Plans

THE whole problem of the action of the peace movement in war-time, and in relation to the future peace, will be discussed at the one-day conference which the National Peace Council will hold in London to-morrow (Saturday) in place of the usual week-end National Peace Congress.

The conference will meet in Friend's House, Euston Road, N.W.1, probably under the chairmanship of Dr. C. E. M. Joad.

As we go to press it is likely that the introductory speakers at the first session (at 10.30 a.m.) will be: Rev. Henry Carter, Carl Heath, and Vera Brittain. At the 2.30 p.m. session the speakers are expected to be: Sir Richard Acland, M.P., J. Middleton Murry, Dr. A. Herbert Gray, and Harrison Barrow.

Individuals are entitled to attend as visitors, but admission will be by ticket only. (Apply to National Peace Council, 39 Victoria Street, S.W.1.)

No time to lose

(continued from page 1.)

readers with whom contact has been lost for the time being.

With every week that passes it will prove more difficult to bring back some of the remainder. Hence the need for speedy action in those regions where no new distributing system is yet working.

In expressing our gratitude to those who have acted so swiftly, we would repeat to others last week's slogan—"GO TO IT!" If they have any particular difficulties in their area, or if they want more information, they should let us know.

We also want to hear from regions which are preparing schemes, or which are not included in the list above, although they have schemes in operation.

THE new Fighting Fund continues to grow at an encouraging rate. During the week which ended on Tuesday, £29. 10s. 7d. came in, making a grand total of £53. 7s. 0 d. since the opening of the Fund was announced on June 7.

This is a fine response in view of the big—and we hope, temporary—decline in our circulation. It will do much to help us through the difficulties which now face us. Keep it up!

Please address gifts to The Accountant, *Peace News*, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4, indicating that they are for the Fighting Fund.

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NEWS OF OBJECTORS

TRIBUNALS' SPEED-UP PREDICTED

TOGETHER with the news that a further 2,291 conscientious objectors had registered with the 1910 class last week-end, it was reported on Monday that the proceedings of C.O.s' tribunals are to be speeded up. The next day it was announced that three tribunals are being constituted to deal with conscientious objectors in London, Glasgow and the North Midlands (probably at Nottingham.)

The *Daily Mail*, which on Saturday drew attention to the time-lag which had developed, declared on Monday: "That delay is not to continue for long. . . . Yesterday assurances were given that the whole process is being speeded up."

Saturday's registration showed in a further decline in the percentage of C.O.s to .69 per cent. In October the figure was 2.1 per cent., in December 2.1, February 1.98, March 1.64, April 6 1.41, April 27 1.23, May 1.05, and June 15 .77.

Fairer Treatment By Two Councils

WHILE many local authorities are dismissing conscientious objectors, or giving them leave without pay for the duration of the war, two more cases of fairer treatment are reported this week.

Swansea Borough Council has refused by a majority of three to take any action against objectors. Families of Swansea men in the Forces were to hold a special meeting on Monday to protest against the employment of C.O.s and other pacifists by the Council.

At Tuesday's meeting of the London County Council the Civil Defence Committee was to recommend that objectors who are registered on condition that they carry on their occupations in the Council's service should be allowed to do so. Those registered for employment in non-combatant duties and who comply should be entitled to receive war service allowances, in the committee's view. Objectors ordered to take up employment in agriculture, forestry, munitions, and the like should, however, be treated as being on leave without pay and the period of absence should not count for increment of pay.

Advice Bureaux

Following are further additions and amendments to the lists of Advisory Bureaux for C.O.s already published. Any similar changes should be sent to the Central Board for C.O.s, Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. J. D. Rowntree, Ingleside, Etherley Lane, Bishop Auckland.

ST. LEONARDS: Mr. T. S. Eldridge, 49 Paynter Road, Silverhill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WOOLWICH: Mr. Dunn, 146 Elibank Road, Eltham Park, S.E.9.

STAINES. Miss M. C. Jones, 64 Gresham Road, Staines.

WOKING: Godfrey Gardner, Dane Court, Pyrford, Near Woking.

9 Months For Refusing To Wear Uniform

NINE months' hard labour is the sentence which Fusilier Daniel Wright will have to serve for refusing, as a conscientious objector, to wear uniform.

As we reported last week, he was court-martialled on a charge of "when on active service disobeying in such a manner as to show wilful defiance of authority of the lawful command given by his superior officer in the execution of his office in that he when personally ordered by Lieutenant J. H. S. Martin to put on his uniform did not do so."

The sentence was promulgated last Thursday.

At the court-martial he questioned the right of Lieutenant Martin to order force to be used to make him wear uniform.

Sentence of three months' imprisonment, or more, entitles a conscientious objector to appeal to the Appellate Tribunal for his case to be reconsidered. Courts-martial have generally imposed a sentence of less than three months for the first such offence; for a second offence, however, a sentence of three months or more has usually been imposed.

Henri Roser

Henri Roser, well-known French pacifist, was court-martialled for refusal to serve in the French army when recalled to the colours at the outbreak of war. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

A statement setting out his position as a conscientious objector was prepared by his wife, Claire Roser, for the information of the advocate who defended Henri Roser at his trial, and is now being circulated among their friends in the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. It is available in pamphlet form from the I.F.R., 16, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 1d.

Facing The New Situation

To the Editor

WILL you allow me to give my own answer to "The Plain Man's" question in the current issue of your paper?

With all my fellows in the peace movement, I believe with intense conviction that there is only one sane and practical way of solving the problems of personal, national and international relationships, and that is the way of justice—justice that can be secured by negotiation—never by war. The way of negotiation will be open to us again in the future and we must then be ready to witness to our faith. For the present moment it is, in my view, closed.

There comes a time in the life of men and nations when the door of opportunity for a long while standing open is definitely shut. The sins and errors so thoughtlessly committed have "found us out." The dread decree is heard "Too late! too late! ye cannot enter now!" We are then confronted by a new situation. As the poet Blake tells us, the Day of Judgment is not a final but a recurring event. We suffer in that day, annihilation. Yet paradoxically we enter upon a new life.

As pacifists we were not able to bring our nation to our conception of justice,

What Does



Stand For ?

A FULL summary of the position and activities of the Peace Pledge Union appears in this paper from time to time. As pressure on space prevents its publication every week, we hope new readers will either send for a copy of the last issue which contains it (May 17), or make sure of seeing it next time by placing a regular order for the paper.

Following are the present Sponsors of the P.P.U.:—

Vera Brittain; George M. L. Davies; Eric Gill; Dr. A. Herbert Gray; Laurence Housman; Aldous Huxley; Storm Jameson; John Middleton Murry; Max Plowman; Lord Ponsonby; Canon Charles E. Raven; Dr. Alfred Salter, M.P.; Dr. Donald O. Soper; Dame Sybil Thorndike; Wilfred Wellock; Arthur Wragg.

For further particulars write P.P.U. headquarters, Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1 to which also should be sent signatures to the pledge which is the basis of membership:

"I renounce war and I will never support or sanction another."

or even of national sanity! And now that Nemesis has fallen upon us all, we have to adjust ourselves to the new situation. We have to meet the full shock of our fate as a nation and overcome it—not by negotiation for that way is for the present moment closed; not by surrender because that would be dishonour, but by wholly accepted sacrifice and by an immovable will to win back our lost right of determining our future so that having learned our lesson, and been purified by suffering, we may as a united people enter in the end on the path that will lead to a new world, based on a new justice whereby class privileges and economic inequalities are swept away and all enjoy on the same terms the bounty of the earth.

(Mrs.) E. PETHICK-LAWRENCE.
11, Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn,
London, W.C.2.

Forward Movement Members in Jail

TWO members of the Forward Movement are in prison, and a third has been released pending an appeal, all on charges of "using insulting words and behaviour likely to elad to a breach of the peace." This is the usual method by which the police are increasingly taking action against pacifist speakers, particularly at open-air meetings.

Frederick Lohr is serving three months, and Howard Whitten one month. Laurence Hislam was sentenced at Marlborough Street, London, police court, on June 4, to three months and sent to Pentonville Prison.

After he had twice been punished by the governor of the prison for refusing to work, on the ground that he claimed he was innocent, the governor suggested that he should appeal against the sentence. Mr. Hislam, who had not known that it was possible for him to appeal, was accordingly released pending the hearing of his appeal.

What Can We Save From The Wreckage?

(continued from page 1)

Nothing, I think, will become clearer to that post-war period than the measure in which disaster has resulted from the failure of man's moral impulses to control his perverted scientific intelligence. Profiting from its analysis of the causes of the present disaster, future civilisation may well turn from mechanical inventions which, like hideous Frankenstein's, rend their creators, to the exploration of the human mind and the eradication of those false ideals which persuade the race of men to destroy itself in battle.

There cannot, now, be any "successful issue" to this war. Too much has gone; this country, like others, has been brought to perceive its miscalculations, its lethargy, and its intolerable complacency at too heavy a cost. But whatever the result, repentance for the price paid is bound to come.

If we can foresee the nature of that repentance and be ready to take advantage of the reversal of values which it will bring, we may still salvage a future for human civilisation from the foundering of Europe.